



## Minutes of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Meeting

**Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 203  
320 S. Main St.  
Jefferson, WI 53549**

**Monday, February 11, 2013 12:30 pm**

Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chairperson), Amy Rinard (Vice-Chairperson), Mariah Hadler (Secretary), Steve Nass and Blane Poulson.

1. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Burlingham at 12:30 pm.
2. Roll Call  
Commission members present included Hadler, Burlingham, Rinard, John Molinaro (ex-officio), Nass and Poulson. County staff present was Michelle Staff (Zoning Department), Phil Ristow (Corporation Counsel), and Gerry Kokkonen (Land and Water Conservation Department).
3. Certification of Compliance With Open Meetings Law Requirements  
Burlingham and Staff verified that the meeting was being held in compliance with open meetings law requirements.
4. Review of Agenda  
No changes to the agenda.
5. Public Comment  
No public comment.
6. Communications  
No communications.
7. Review & Approval of the January 14, 2013 Minutes  
**Motion** made by Rinard, seconded by Poulson to approve the January 14, 2013 minutes. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.
8. Discussion on interest forms received for the PACE program
  - a. Roger Lehmann  
Burlingham has been in contact with DNR to inquire about possible funding for the Lehmann easement through Glacial Heritage Area stewardship monies. She has not been able to get a hold of a person to discuss stewardship monies' availability. Burlingham stated that the National Fish and Wildlife Service may be another source of funding for this easement.

Burlingham indicated that the NRCS deadline for grant application is March 29<sup>th</sup> and asked the Commission if they want to pursue this easement. Burlingham reported that NRCS will only put in 50% of the cost of the easement and the County would need to match that amount. Motion by Nass, seconded by Hadler to apply for a NRCS grant for a conservation

easement on the Lehmann property. Motion passed on a voice vote with no objection. The Commission needs to talk to Lehmann about other options on funding. Lehmann will need a baseline study.

b. Clifford Haberman

Currently there is no money available to purchase an easement from the Habermans.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on 2011 PACE Applications  
Dale Neupert, Gerner and Greg Wilke.

The Neupert easement is waiting for approvals from the NRCS office. NRCS needs to approve the easement language and the hazardous assessment report. The appraisal has expired and Burlingham stated that to renew the appraisal it will cost approximately \$2,500 and will take about 60 days to complete. There was discussion on whether the Commission should hire a different appraiser. Burlingham stated that she will call the appraiser and discuss with them whether the cost could be reduced since an appraisal already was completed on the property. Burlingham stated that she contacted NRCS and they indicated that grant applications could be submitted without appraisals if additional forms were completed. Motion made by Nass, seconded by Poulson to authorize Burlingham to contact the appraiser to negotiate a price for the Neupert appraisal. There was a brief discussion on the situation with the last easement closing and NRCS accepting a letter from the appraiser. Ristow informed the Commission that the closing on that easement was shortly after the deadline, whereas Neupert's is not. Motion passed on a voice vote with no objection. The baseline report is completed by the Land and Water Conservation Department.

No new update on the Wilke easement; they still have to correct the barnyard runoff problems before the easement can be purchased.

Burlingham has talked to Gerner and he will not be pursuing his easement. Burlingham asked Ristow to write a letter to Gerner and cc Ron Howard of NRCS indicating that the Commission will be no longer be purchasing an easement on this property.

10. Easement Donation from Rodell Lea, Town of Oakland

There was discussion that Lea's new farm purchase has no residential lots available but Lea has indicated that he still would like to donate. The Commission recommended that Lea contact his attorney to see if he could get any Federal tax credits for lands without available splits. It was discussed that the County Board would need to accept the donation through a resolution. A baseline report will need to be completed and easement language will need to be agreed upon. The Commission asked Lea to write a letter on his intent to donate an easement to Jefferson County.

11. Discussion on Possible funding Sources for the PACE program.

It was mentioned that Bill Berry from American Farmland Trust has been working with the State Legislature to ask for monies for the PACE program. At this point in time, there still aren't any funds available.

12. Discussion on January 29, 2013 Workshop Scheduled

The Commission recapped the January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. There was discussion on some marketing ideas such as having flyers and/or booths at farmers' markets. Burlingham did call a couple of local farmers' markets such as Fort Atkinson and Watertown. They were willing to work with the Commission on promoting the program. Burlingham indicated that in April the farmers' markets have new vendor meetings. There was a discussion on different marketing tools such as bag stuffers, photo contests, Facebook, summer reading programs for kids, garden shows, bookmarks for kids, etc. It was discussed that the Commission needed additional help to do this type of marketing and it was suggested that the Commission look into an intern for this work. There was a discussion on use of interns. Hadler will call the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to look into this possibility.

13. Future Meeting Dates

All meeting dates were acceptable to the Commission.

14. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

None

15. Adjourn

**Motion** by Nass, seconded by Poulson to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.

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Secretary Signature

Date

Minutes by Michelle Staff, Zoning Technician, Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department